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Subject: cleanuprocketdyne/ACME TASC - WITHDRAWAL
Date: 05/26/2009 08:30 AM

Regretfully, we feel we must withdraw from the TASC assistance program under the circumstances of what has been framed as "competitive community groups." We were told that a request had been made by the "competing group" and were given the choice to also participate, or not. In fact, it appears that the other group simply wants to create dis-unity and to deny the operational history and environmental consequences of the site, and seems to be using this program as a catalyst to do so. It was requested that we provide a list of issues we wish to consider, but when we requested the list submitted from the competing group, we were told there was no such list. Recent events demonstrate their intent to diminish site impacts to the community and effectively erase history. We do not wish to participate in what we believe will be an effort to create dis-unity by the "competing group" (SSMAC, of West Hills Neighborhood Council) who has announced this weekend, their intent to re-format the long-standing SSFL Workgroup into a CAG and a separate motion to add themselves to the workgroup they are working so hard to destroy. These are malicious and divisive efforts and we believe it is inappropriate for EPA resources to be used here to pursue such efforts to deny or to diminish existing law in SB990, which is what the competing group has made clear is their intent.

We have worked tirelessly for nearly a decade in building our research and understanding of the SSFL facility and its challenges, and our work has translated into real clean-up actions. We wish to remain focused on the needed characterization and clean-up, rather than engaging in pointless debates with this group as to whether there should even be a clean-up. They have maliciously attacked our work, our character, and our intent, to all levels of government and the public. This has been a very painful and difficult experience that has literally threatened our ability to continue to exist, and we cannot put further risk to ourselves on this basis.

Instead, I request that we (ACME and ALL other community groups), be able to meet with EPA to discuss the needs of the community as we see them, and will do so through the process set-forth by the already existing SSFL Workgroup process. We are very pleased with recent and much-needed regulatory change giving EPA lead over-sight over the SSFL RAD Soil Survey and the Background Study, and look forward to sharing our views, concerns, and community needs, and hope that our research will be seriously considered when reviewing key-decision points throughout the process.

Thanks for the opportunity and I hope you can appreciate the situation we find ourselves in, and look forward to working with EPA in the future, as the radiological characterization and clean-up proceeds at the site.
Sincerely,

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